Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) today applauded an agreement between the Administration and Congress to take a new course on international trade. An understanding announced after lengthy negotiations includes a requirement for enforceable, internationally recognized labor and environmental standards in pending free trade agreements. The agreement also includes provisions affecting intellectual property, government procurement, and port security.

"Having spent more than 20 years in the high-tech industry and as an international consultant, I have seen the benefits of creating alliances and expanding markets for U.S. products and services," said Bean. "This agreement reflects our commitment to strengthening America's competitiveness while keeping faith with American workers and protecting the environment. We will have the strongest, most enforceable, internationally recognized labor and environmental standards in our trade agreements. This is a major accomplishment."

"In addition to labor and environmental standards, this agreement makes changes to certain intellectual property rights," Bean said, "and I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve patent protections and ensure the competitiveness of America's innovators."

"As we move forward on agreements with Panama and Peru and make important progress on Colombia, Korea and trade promotion authority, I am confident that as we continue to work together on a bipartisan basis, we will expand markets for American products and services worldwide and create jobs here at home. I am proud of the work of Chairman Rangel, Chairman Levin and Ambassador Schwab – as well as Speaker Pelosi, and Congressman McCrery to get us where we are today," said Bean.

Rep. Melissa Bean represents the 8th District of Illinois. She is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and Chair of the Subcommittee on Finance and Tax of the House Small Business Committee. She is Co-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition's Financial Services Task Force.

###